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## RESULT OF EXCESS.

Overproduction and backwardness of trade in many sections have terminated in misfortune to manufacturers in general, who, to secure ready cash, have been compelled to part with their accumulated stocks at great concession of prices as the following offering of

## ALL WOOL CASSIMERE SUITS

Will best illustrate. 500 Cassimere Suits purchased this week from one of the leading manufacturers, and which we offer at from \$3.50 to \$5.00 under the regular price per garment. Overcoats in 50 different styles, including Melton \$6.50, former price \$9; Fine Cassimere \$7, former price \$15; elegant Blue Cashmere \$11.25, former price \$19; Magnificent satin-lined Chinchillas at \$15.50, former price \$30. Boys' and Children's Clothing at 50 per cent. below the regular price. Pants from \$1 up. Gossamer coats from \$1.50 up.

## ORIGINAL LONDON MISFIT STORE,

912 F Street, Opposite Masonic Temple,  
SIX DOORS FROM NINTH STREET.

## THE PANAMA CANAL.

Terrible Mortality Among the Workmen  
--Progress of the Work.

"Our \$20,000,000 has been spent in establishing homes for the engineers and workmen along the route of the Panama Ship Canal," said Captain James Whitbank, who has been for more than a year engaged in dredging operations on the canal, and who has returned home after a tough tussle with the dreaded swamp fever.

"Plenty of money there, then, Captain?"

"Oh, plenty. There is only one thing more common than cash, and that is death. Men die like the leaves in autumn. Only the Italians appear to live. The dead are disposed of without ceremony. A shallow grave, no prayers, and all is in a moment forgotten. There are now 15,000 men at work on the canal, mostly negroes from Jamaica and the French West Indies. These negroes are brought over in droves as fast as those at work die, and I venture to say that not two thirds of the 15,000 laborers now at work will be alive a year from now. It's dreadful. Five thousand died during the past three months; but the large pay tempts men to brave all the danger. The company appears to have an unlimited supply of money, and pays off every two weeks."

"What progress has been made in the four years?"

"Well, two miles and a half of the canal proper has been dug out. Originally this section was dredged to a depth of fourteen feet, but is now only six feet deep, the soft swamp lands pressed down by the weight of the dirt thrown out on either side filling in the canal from underneath. A great deal of work has, however, been done with the great steam shovels in leveling the high lands through which the canal is to pass, and dredging will soon be started in those sections. Work is now progressing upon the only large mountain which bars the way of the canal from ocean to ocean. This mountain is 400 feet high and nine miles in circumference, and is to be cut down with steam ploughs and carted away. The company has been compelled to spend \$20,000,000, as I said, to locate homes through the swamps from which as a basis the work of digging out the canal can be carried on. This work necessitated the building of railroad branches into the swamps and the making of solid foundations with stone and gravel, hundreds of feet wide and miles in extent. Laborers get \$3 a day, and skilled mechanics and bosses from \$100 to \$350 a month."

"Will the canal ever be finished?"

"Not, I think, unless the swamp sections are constructed with piling, and that would cost so large an amount of money that the scheme could not possibly pay. But the company appears to have all the cash necessary to carry on the work."—Philadelphia Record.

## Famous Spendthrifts of Ancient Times

Pasha Loring says in the *Manhattan Magazine*: Prodigals are confined to no land or age. As long as the wealth of the world continues to be unequally distributed, so long, probably, shall we have spendthrifts. Old Adam Smith tells that the "necessaries of life" include only those commodities that are indispensable to our healthful support, and those things the lack of which, among creditable people of even the lower class, is rendered indecent by the custom of the community. All other things he declares to be luxuries. If such a definition as that were accepted most of us could easily be convicted of needless extravagance. A glance at the careers of a few of the monumental prodigals of the world will be found to be of interest.

A history of the spendthrifts of ancient Rome would fill a volume of good size and unique charm. Apicius, Crassus, Probus, Claudius, Nero, Vitellius and Caligula all squandered vast sums on the most trifling objects. Apicius spent \$4,000,000 on his palate, cast up his accounts, and, discovering that he had only \$400,000 left, immediately hanged himself to avoid the privations of threatening poverty. Elagabalus regaled the attendants of his palace on the brains of pheasants, the tongues of thrushes, and the eggs of partridges. At his own meals the peas were sprinkled with grains of gold, pearls were scattered in dishes of rice, and the costliest amber was used to render palatable a dish of beans.

Crassus made a great banquet for the populace during his candidacy for the office of Consul, at which ten thousand tables were heaped with luxuries. Even this was surpassed by Caesar, who, at the funeral feast on the occasion of his daughter's death, spread twenty-two thousand tables, accommodating three guests at each. Tiberius, like Cleopatra, gulped down precious stones

mixed (after being crushed) in wine and he heaped the plates of favorite guests with gold and jewels, which they carried away. It was Tiberius who caused to be built boats of cedar, covered with gold and precious stones, and large enough to admit of their being turned into floating gardens, in which were planted flowers, vines and fruit trees.

But it is to Nero, of whom it has been said that "there was not a vice to which he was not given, nor a crime which he did not commit," that the prize of senseless prodigality must be awarded. In the simple recreation of fishing he used lines of purple silk and hooks of gold. His tiara was estimated to be worth two and a half millions of dollars, and he never wore the same costume twice. When on a progress through his dominions, five hundred asses followed in his trail to supply milk for the daily bath of himself and his wife, Poppaea.

Christianity gradually displaced the fashions of heathenism, and a deluge of barbarism overflowed Italian civilization. Thenceforward, for a long time, the extravagant expenditure of great fortunes was confined to the Eastern empire, whose capital was the city of Constantinople.

## Imitations of Costly Leather.

The custom of carrying lunch reticules, money purses, and traveling bags of leather has made an increased demand for the leather from rare animals, or for leather of attractive appearance. As the natural supply of alligator and the great python or boa skins is not sufficient to keep up the demand, these skins—or the leathers from them—are imitated very largely by using the leather of commoner and cheaper kinds. Even seal leather, goat leather, and kid leather, or morocco, are imitated. The surface of alligator leather consists of almost exact rectangles or squares, separated by deep furrows, the squares gradually diminishing in size as they recede from the center of the skin. The boa leather is in diamond shaped patches, forming a fine network, and is very elegant, the division lines being very fine. Sealskin leather is a diapered or arabesque pattern of irregular divisions raised and depressed. Goat leather is crossed in regular lines at acute angles, forming minute elongated diamonds.

As some of these leathers are too costly to be furnished at low prices, the million who desire the best, but cannot always afford the cost, are supplied by fair imitations, which are not as durable as the genuine, serving in part the purposes of the costly leathers. These imitations are made by the aid of photography. A genuine seal, alligator, boa or other costly skin is photographed then printed on sensitive gelatine, the parts not acted upon by light dissolved out in water, and a cast or an electric type plate then made in copper or type metal, as practiced in the reproduction of engravings, and then the metal plate and the smooth leather of some domestic animal are passed between rollers under pressure, and the figure on the plate is permanently fixed on the leather by great pressure. Any of these leathers may be stained, colored or dyed to any tint desired; but plain black or the color left by the tanning is generally preferred.

## The Game of Marbles.

I have often wondered how that favorite game of the small boy, marbles, came into vogue, but never found out until a recent visit to Birmingham, where I came across an old antiquary who enlightened me. He said that a century ago it was a popular amusement with staid and professional men, who used to assemble in the marble "alleys" or alcoves connected with the inns of the town, to pass an hour or two in this amusement. Think of it, boys! Gray old men, genuine grandfathers, would hang their cocked hats on oaken pegs, and taking from private hooks their own particular knee-caps of stoutly-lined leather, go plump upon their knees and deep in the delights of "alley toss" and "common-crys" and familiar cry of "knuckled down." A few of these alcoves are still in existence in connection with ancient hostleries. — *Cincinnati Enquirer*.

## Bismarck's Best Medal.

Prince Bismarck is represented as often saying, of all his decorations, that upon which he sets most value is a medal he received from a humane society for rescuing a drowning soldier. His method of rescue, as we see it related, was eminently characteristic of the man. The soldier clung to him in such a manner as to endanger both their lives. Bismarck, being the stronger of the two, held the terrified man's head under water until he ceased to struggle, and then swam with him to shallow water, from which he conveyed him to the shore.

## CHINESE NOMENCLATURE.

What the Laundrymen's Names Signify  
—A Chinaman's Five Names.

Yan Phon Lee, a Chinaman residing in Springfield, Mass., has been telling the *Republican* of that city something about Chinese names. He said: The majority of the names that you see on signs of laundries or tea stores kept by Chinamen are simply fancy names adopted for their auspicious significance; for instance, "Hop Sing" means "deserving of prosperity," "Woh Loong" means "success through concord," "Nee Wah" means "integrity and harmony." You may say they are simply mottoes, having no reference to the proprietor or the members of a firm whatsoever. To call the proprietor of one of the laundries here "Nee Wah" would be as absurd as calling the members of the dry goods firm of Forbes & Wallace "Nemo me impune lacessit."

Every properly constituted Chinaman has five names—the prenomena of the Romans—besides his surname, or cognomen. The last is fixed and handed down from one generation to another. There are more than 300 patronymics known in China, not counting those of naturalized subjects who originated from Tartary. Their derivation is various and instructive, and they embody in their curious hieroglyphic shapes many a historic truth and reference to dynastic changes. The family names of the first Chinese Ambassador to this country and of the present Minister, Chin and Jun, were at one time, say 500 B. C., the names of two principalities under the Chow Kings. The descendants of the great Shun, the ideal ruler in the golden age of China, were lords of Chin. The descendants of one of the younger brothers of Wu, founder of the Chow dynasty, were the petty sovereigns of Jun. Hence a contemplation of these two names carries us back to China's feudal times. The feudal system lasted nearly 2000 years, till the first Emperor of the Tsin dynasty abolished it. In subsequent times it has been revived under modified forms, but it has never recovered from the blow that the builder of the great wall dealt it. The principle of the Chinese system is similar to feudalism in Europe—that is, the holding of lands by military tenure. Some names denote certain mental or personal peculiarities of those who first bore them. Others were adopted on certain occasions, as some grand events in the lives of those who assumed them. Patronymics were known at the dawn of the Chinese authentic history, but were not extensively used in company with the prenomen in designation till Confucius's time.

The name Lee, which you think has been "assumed" by me, is merely my Chinese surname spelled with English letters. You don't suppose that the Anglo-Saxon race have the monopoly of names in addition to the monopolies of religion, philosophy and trade, do you? Lee in Chinese means "a plum," and is identical with Li, which is the surname of Li Hung Chang, called "Bismarck of China." But I prefer long sound in the double e to the short i to which some may by mistake give the long sound and make the name sound like a lie. I have not the honor of being the great Minister's relation. I haven't the claim even of a forty-fifth cousin. For Lee, or Li, is as common as Smith, and is borne by a larger number of persons than any other name.

Every male child born in China is first called by his "milk name." When he grows old enough to attend school he takes a "book name." When he has learned the mysteries of composition he competes for literary honors under an assumed name, which is finally adopted when he successfully passes his examinations and obtains his degree. His equals address him by another, either coined by themselves or adopted by him. At his marriage he adopts still another, called "style." In addition to these enumerated, nicknames are also common. They are all fanciful. We do not have any conventional "Thomas, Richard and Henry," and the rest. All our names are words which mean something and are taken from the dictionary. For example, Yan means "by imperial favor," and Phou, or Foo, signifies wealth, that is, wealth by the Emperor's favor. Girls generally have only the "milk name," and oftentimes, especially when they have grown to be women, they are simply designated by numbers according to the order of their birth.

Inferiors and juniors never address their superiors and elders by name, but always by some title, and children are forbidden by the canons of Confucius to mention any of their father's string of names except that which is given him by his equals, much less be named after him. In the same family no

names are ever duplicated. People who are not scholars have only the "milk name," the "equality name," and, if married, the "matrimonial style." Coolies and other laborers oftentimes lack the "equality name." "Ah Sin," name of the hero in Bret Harte's funny poem, is probably a "milk name" given by the father of the hero when he drew nutriment from the fountains of infant life. "Sin" means "first"—he was probably the first token of his parents' wedded bliss. "Ah" is something like the ie in Charlie, prefixed, instead, to add euphony to the word "sin." Sometimes it is spelled ar. It has no significance of its own.

## How Dynamite is Made.

Dynamite, strictly speaking in the sense in which the word is used to designate an explosive, is a preparation of nitro-glycerine absorbed into a body of a peculiar clay, which is called in Germany, *Kieselguhr*. Influenced by absorption in this inert substance nitro-glycerine becomes safe to handle, while its power as an explosive is not materially decreased.

This compound, while effective as an explosive for blasting purposes, was necessarily of a strength of seventy-five per cent by weight of nitro-glycerine, and in this country was regarded as being of too great strength to be economical, and led to experiments to produce a compound having less nitro-glycerine, and therefore costing less. To put a smaller quantity of nitro into the same quantity of clay would not suffice, as the glycerine would be too completely masked, and it would be almost impossible to detonate the compound.

The proper preparation was at length discovered, and dynamite, as it is now made in the United States, is composed of salt petre, wood pulp and nitro-glycerine. By varying the amount of wood pulp compounds of different strength are made, and sold at prices proportionate to the strength. That which has forty per cent of nitro-glycerine is the most generally sold. The wood pulp acts as the absorbent, and its proportion in the preparation is that which is needed to hold the proper proportion of glycerine. The foreign chemists have doubtless adopted the word *ignin* as a descriptive term for this particular kind of dynamite.

The wood pulp is the same as that commonly used in newspaper stock, and is made by grinding up logs of poplar and other wood. This compound is commonly called dynamite, but is sometimes known as Atlas powder. It is manufactured by several companies in this country, and is a powerful explosive. The shipping of it to Europe is practically prohibited in large quantities, but there is nothing to prevent a man taking a satchel full with him if he wishes. It is perfectly safe to handle. There is not much, if any, shipped from this country. Any European chemist can manufacture the compound, who knows the preparations used for it, and most of it is made in Paris, Berlin and London. In a recent case where the dynamite used evidently exploded prematurely it was doubtless manufactured by a foreign chemist who did not put the proper proportion of clay or wood pulp in it, and it became detonated by its own workings.

## Abraham Lincoln's Record.

A Washington letter to the *Cleveland Leader* says: In an old paper, worn with age and now unknown, I came across Abraham Lincoln's only autobiography. It was written in 1848, at the request of Charles Lanman, who was then making up his dictionary of congress, and had asked Mr. Lincoln for a sketch of his life. The following is Abraham Lincoln's written reply: "Born Feb. 12, 1809, in Hardin county, Kentucky."  
"Education defective."  
"Profession, lawyer."  
"Have been a captain of volunteers in the Black Hawk war."  
"Postmaster at a very small office."  
"Four times a member of the Illinois legislature."  
"And was a member of the lower house of congress. Yours, etc.,  
A. LINCOLN."

## What Did She Mean?

Mr. and Mrs. Buntlin were going out to walk.  
"Wait," said Mrs. B., "until I go back and get my umbrella."  
"It isn't going to rain, is it?" asked Mr. B.  
"Not that I know of."  
"Then what do you want with an umbrella?"  
"Oh, I always like to have something along with me when I'm walking."  
Mr. B. looked bothered, but didn't seek any explanations. — *San Francisco Post*.

New York city has one church to every 5,000 inhabitants.

## First St. ps.

He's! the baby stands alone—  
He'd four breath and watch here:  
Now she takes a step—just one—  
Wavers, stops—quick, catch her!  
Courage! Life's first step will cost:  
Now again she's trying—  
One, two—three! she walks, almost,  
Trembling, stumbling, crying.  
One, two, three—Oh! she will walk  
Now, before we know it:  
Hear her sweet-voiced baby-talk,  
Little bird, or poet!  
Prattling, tottling, there she goes,  
Stepping off so proudly—  
Turning in her untanned toes,  
Pleased—then laughing loudly.  
There lies baby on the floor:  
Sprawling, rolling, screaming,  
Are life's first attempts so poor?  
Baby was but dreaming  
When she felt so bold and strong;  
Gladly now she's clinging  
To the one whose soothing song  
Buck her smile is bringing.  
Hearts are cured by mamma's kiss—  
Brave again as ever,  
See, the plucky little miss  
Makes her best endeavor;  
Walks right off—the darling pet—  
Rush now to caress her!  
Come what will of first steps yet,  
All good angels bless her!  
—Elizabeth C. Kinney, in *St. Nicholas*.

## HUMOROUS.

Going to seed—The farmer.

Eternal hanging is the prize of vigilants.

A sleepy head is often possessed of a nod idea.

A man with a head the shape and color of a calf's is now on exhibition in Paris. He is doubtless the original dude.

Why is it that when a man sits on the point and his trousers are never the same color?

Hens may be a little backward on eggs, but they never fail to come to the scratch where flower-beds are concerned.

A man in Texas raises goats for their flesh, but when the festive creatures grow up they raise him just for the fun of the thing.

A milkman who imagined that he was unobserved was seen recently patting a pump on the back in a most affectionate manner.

A piece of bone has been found in a pound of Philadelphia butter. The man who can sell bone at the price of butter has a bonanza.

Young wife: "Dear, why are you eating so much more of my cake than usual to-night? Is it nicer than it was last night?" Young husband: "I—my darling—I—well, to tell you the truth, I bet Toozle \$5 that I weighed more than he did, and we were going down to the store to settle it to-night."

"Where are you going, Ernest?" she asked him as he rose between the acts at the theater, one evening last week. He: "I promised to meet Simpson when the curtain fell." She: "Can't you bring me a glass of Simpson, too, darling?" Ernest coughs and tries to smile; then sits down again, and looks discontented for the rest of the evening.

Once upon a time a traveller arrived at a hotel and found all the rooms engaged. Here was a sad case. But his ready wit did not desert him. He walked into the gentlemen's room, and standing in the middle of the floor, said: "Gentlemen, I am happy to see so many of you here to-night. I am a book agent, and I want to show you—"

Before he could utter another word the whole company had taken to the woods, and he had his choice of apartments.

## Two and a Half Were Girls.

George W. Cable, the New Orleans novelist, can make a good Sunday-school address as well as write clever stories and crack April-fool jokes, says the *Troy Times*. Accompanied by Roswell Smith of the *Century* magazine, he spent a Sunday with friends in Monson, attended the Congregational church and was invited to talk to the Sunday school in the afternoon. Mr. Cable's fondness for children is proverbial, and he accepted. In the course of his remarks he raised his hand, expanded the digits and said: "I have so many children at home. How many is that?" "Five," piped up a youngster promptly. "And half of them are girls," continued the speaker, staggering his audience with his apparently reckless disregard of truth. "How much is half of five?" asked Mr. Cable. "Two and a half," reproachfully replied a little miss in the front pew. "Yes," said the novelist with a benignant smile as he saw that his reputation for veracity was fast slipping away, "two and a half of them are girls and the other two and a half, too—five girls." "Oh," gasped the little miss with a look of relief, and then a ripple of laughter bubbled up from the corner where the "birds-nest" class sat, floated over the backs of the pews, climbed into the gallery and died away in the organ loft.